Paracetamol are being sold at prices higher than the notified prices;

(b) what is the notified price fixed for each of these drugs and what is the price at which these drugs are being sold in the market; and

(c) what steps have been taken to fix a fair price so that there is adequate availability of these drugs?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) Reports of Chloramphenicol and Paracetamol being sold at a price higher than the notified price have been received.

(b) The notified price of Chloramphenicol Powder is Rs. 1300/- per Kg. and that of Paracetamol is Rs. 137/- per Kg. Market prices for the drugs are not monitored by my Ministry.

(c) There is no shortage of formulations and the bulk drugs in the market.

Prices of Decadron and Dexona formulations

653. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:
CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what were the prices of Decadron and Dexona brand formulations fixed under DPCO, 1979;

(b) whether it is a fact that these prices have not been implemented so far and the public continues to be overcharged;

(c) what are the names of companies which are marketing these products;

(d) what is the amount overcharged and what steps have been taken to recover the same; and

(e) what is the name of the drug on which these medicines are based and what was the price of bulk drug taken for fixation of prices of finished medicines?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) to (e) Decadron and Dexona range of formulations belong to M/s. Merind and M/s. Cadila respectively. These formulations are based on bulk drug Dexamethasone pure/Dexamethasone 21-Phosphate. The prices of Decadron range of formulations could not be fixed under DPCO, 1979 due to stay of the Delhi High Court obtained by M/s. Merind. As regard Dexona range of formulations, as per available information, a price of Rs. 2.83 was fixed for Dexona Eye/Ear drops, 2.5 ml bottle under DPCO, 1979. Against M/s. Merind, a tentative liability of Rs. 781.58 lakhs upto 31-12-1983 has been assessed and they have already been asked to deposit the amount due from them with the Government. As regards Cadila, the position is being ascertained.

Fixation of formulation Prices

654. SHRI K. G. MAHESWARAPPA:
SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 150 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th January, 1991 and state:

(a) on what basis the prices of formulations based on Ampicillin Trihydrate, Metrinadazole, Cophalaxin, Ibuprofen and Analgin were fixed at notified prices when the bulk drug purchase prices were cheaper than the notified prices;

(b) whether it is a fact that such an action has resulted in undue benefits to the producers by way of overcharging; and